

Shanghai Municipal Police.

I. O. REC.

5095

Date 7/5/23

CENTRAL

Station.

May

7

1923

REPORT ON Circular re Organization of Citizens Army to
Promote Self-Government in Canton

Made by D. I. Givens

Forwarded by *[Signature]* for Director of Criminal Intelligence.

Sir,

I am attaching herewith a translation of the
above circular which refers to matters in Canton and seems
to have no bearing on the political situation locally.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]
D. I.

D. I. G.

[Handwritten marks]
7/5

REFERRED TO POLICE FORCE

APR 28 1923

EPR

No. *5095*
Date *9/5/23*

This is a circular issued by the Canton Self Government
Bureaucracy dealing with the matter of organising a citizen
army, in order to promote self governments.

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This is a circular issued by the Canton Self Government
Bureau dealing with the matter of organising a citizen
army, in order to promote self governments.

17 Nov

Translation of a circular purporting to have emanated from Yu Zung School (育成学校), Canton City, and containing a declaration on the subject of the Cantonese Self-Government Army.

Declaration

- 1- Official Designation - This Army is organized by the people of Kwangtung for the purpose of maintaining the rights of the people in the matter of local self-government and is not intended to be used for national defence. Hence it is called "The Cantonese Self-Government Army".
 Note - There have already existed the well-organized Citizens Corps, the Volunteer Corps, etc. If we should organize other corps composed of farmers, labourers, students, etc. endless confusion would be the inevitable result. So it is thought best to unite all these classes into one army which will labour for the unification of all the people in Kwangtung province and protect their rights.
- 2- Object - We cannot deny the evil consequences of
 - A- keeping too many soldiers, especially when those soldiers are organized for the support of certain parties. Troops of this description are neither useful for national defence nor for local protection. They simply follow the party leader and loot, fight or run away as suits their fancy. They do harm and no good. Conditions of this description beget all kinds of evils, and it is with a view to mitigating these that we have organized the Cantonese Self-Government Army.
 - B- Further the hope for the disbandment of soldiers in China will be probably realised. The army and navy is intended for national defence. However it usually happens that when a provincial governor has got one or two hundred companies of these troops together, he transforms them into a party army with evil consequences. The lessons of the past should be a warning for the future. Therefore it is necessary for the people to organize their own army.
 - C- The Republic has existed upwards of 10 years only in name and not in reality. The militarists are largely responsible for this failure. They favour militarism, oppress the people, and hinder the establishment of self-government system. We therefore recommend that people have an army for the protection of the people and of its rights and its government so as to be able to establish the republic on a solid basis. This is another reason for the people to organize an army which will protect their interests.
 - D- We remember that during the latter part of the Tsing Dynasty, 3 per cent additional land tax was levied to defray the expenses of the local pro-self-government societies, but no such societies ~~had~~ were ever established. Times are changing and the time now seems ripe for the organization of these societies in the provincial capital, the counties and all the townships of the province. The organization of troops for their support cannot be avoided. For these reasons we are anxious to push our scheme.

- 3- Objects of the Army - To promote on the basis of the above mentioned reasons a government by the people thereby strengthening and consolidating the Chinese Republic.
- 4- Duties of the Army - Since the army is organized for the sole purpose of protecting the citizens of various districts and are not paid by the Central Government as a national army, therefore it will not interfere in the politics of the country but will keep on friendly relations with other armies, maintain order and peace of the district under its jurisdiction and protect the lives and property of the people.
- 5- Jurisdiction of the Army - Officers who are appointed to the commands in the army will be responsible for the maintenance of public peace of the district and the arrest of perpetrators of crimes but they will have no right to inflict penalties.
- 6- Expenses of the army - As the army which is organized by the people for their own protection, does not function as a national army controlled by the government, the latter will not be responsible for its upkeep. An office for the collection of subscriptions to defray the expenses of the Canton Self-Government army will be established. The people may if they agree allot a certain proportion of their subscriptions to increase the income of the government in order to alleviate its burden. Since the public is sincere in carrying out the disarmament of soldiers, it is the object of this army to assist the government in the protection of the people.
- 7- Organization and functions of the army - The army will be composed of units selected from the villages and country. It will defend the people and their district. Unless necessitated by emergency the army should not be moved to other places. At ordinary times the soldiers may attend to their own business. Our idea being that the people should be soldiers and soldiers should be labourers.
- 8- Classification of officers of the army -
 - (a) Kwen Tai (officer in charge) A kwen Tai and a deputy Kwen Tai will be appointed to command the self-government army in control of a village or a section of the country.
 - (b) Toong Tai (officer in charge). A Toong Tai and a deputy Toong Tai will be appointed to command a section of the self-government army in control of several villages, each of which is under the command of a Kwen Tai.
 - (c) Branch Divisional Commander - The section of the self-government army of a Hsien will come under the command of a Branch Divisional Commander and a deputy Branch Divisional Commander.
 - (d) Sectional Commander - The section of the self-Government army composed by several Hsien under the Branch Divisional Commanders, will be commanded by a Sectional Commander and his deputy.
 - (e) Divisional Commander - The Sectional Commanders are under the command of a Divisional Commander and his deputy. The present divisional armies are as follows :

<u>number</u>	<u>Place stationed</u>
1	Kwang Wei
2	Zao Wei
3	Nan Zao Lien
4	Zao Yung Loo
5	Kao Lien
6	Ching Lien
7	Chuin Yah

(f) ~~Commander-in-Chief~~ - The Commander-in-Chief is in ~~the~~ supreme command of the army.
The above officers will be selected from amongst the able residents of their respective districts.

Assistance for the Army.

Besides the army there will be established a central bureau for the self-government of Canton, and its branches in the various Hsiens and villages. The offices of the Central Bureau will be located with the headquarters of the Army, and so with the branches of the bureau with the headquarters of the inferior officers of the army.

The co-operation of the different Hsiens and villages with the assistance of the Bureaus for self-government will enable the people to form a strong union and carry out their plans for the general welfare with united effort.

As you are well known in pleading self-government and for your love of country we trust that you will give us frequent advice in order to make our army a success, to extend the rights of the people, to promote a government by the people and to strengthen the nation. It will not be a blessing to Canton only but to the whole Republic.

To all elders, brothers and sisters.

(Stamped and signed)

Mah Wei Foong (麥維鳳)

March, 12th, year of the Chinese Republic.